Modesty BLAISE

TAKE OVER

by PETER O'DONNELL and JIM HOLDAWAY

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

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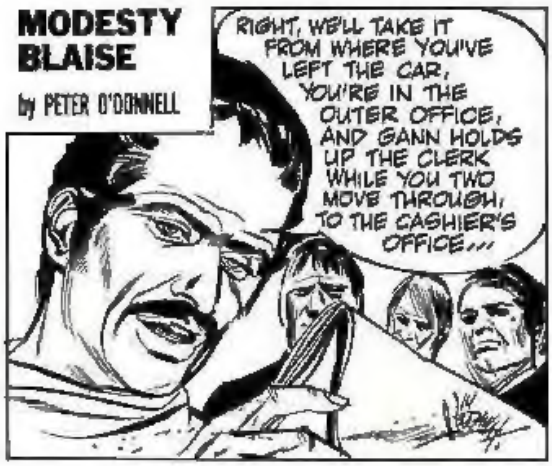
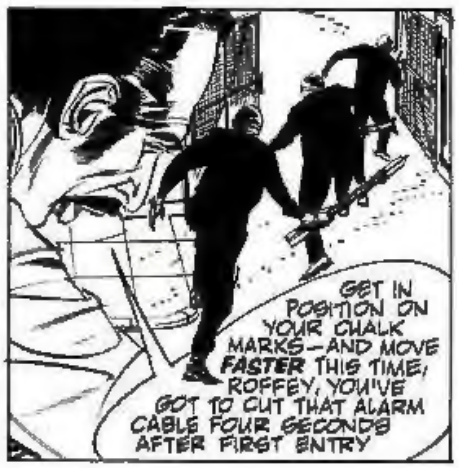
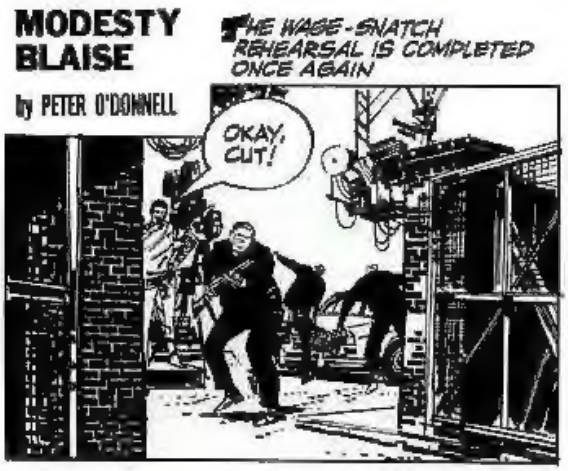

RIGHT, WE'LL TAKE IT FROM WHERE YOU'VE LEFT THE CAR, YOU'RE IN THE OUTER OFFICE, AND GANN HOLDS UP THE CLERK WHILE YOU TWO MOVE THROUGH, TO THE CASHIER'S OFFICE...

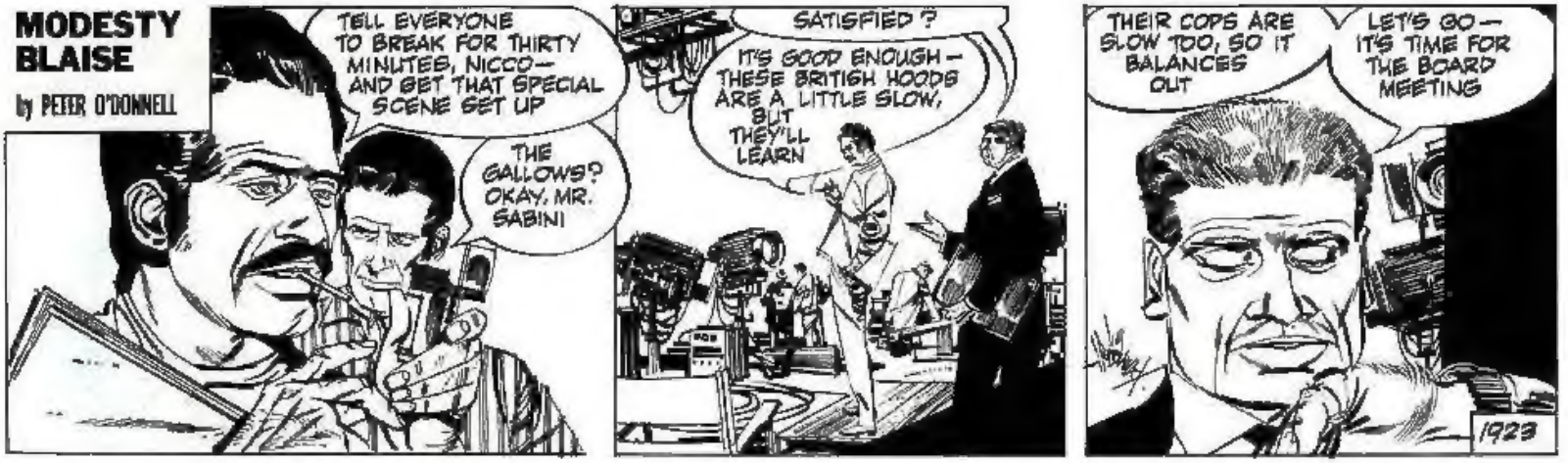

GET IN POSITION ON YOUR CHALK MARKS—AND MOVE FASTER THIS TIME, ROFFEY, YOU'VE GOT TO CUT THAT ALARM CABLE FOUR SECONDS AFTER FIRST ENTRY

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL



MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


TELL EVERYONE TO BREAK FOR THIRTY MINUTES, NICCO— AND GET THAT SPECIAL SCENE SET UP
THE GALLOWS? OKAY, MR. SABINI
SATISFIED?
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH— THESE BRITISH HOODS ARE A LITTLE SLOW, BUT THEY'LL LEARN
THEIR COPS ARE SLOW TOO, SO IT BALANCES OUT
LET'S GO— IT'S TIME FOR THE BOARD MEETING
1923

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE OFFICE SECTION OF THE FILM STUDIOS
MEETING DECLARED OPEN.
I FLY TO NEW YORK TONIGHT, TO REPORT TO THE COSA NOSTRA GOVERNING COMMITTEE ON PROGRESS MADE IN TAKING OVER BRITISH CRIME
SECTION REPORTS, PLEASE —FINANCE FIRST
NO CHANGE, MR. CHAIRMAN — WE INVESTED TWO MILLION SETTING UP THESE STUDIOS AS COVER FOR THE TAKE-OVER CAMPAIGN...
CURRENT EXPENDITURE IS JUST OVER $ 50,000 A MONTH— REVENUE IS SMALL AT THIS STAGE, AS EXPECTED— THE COMMITTEE DOESN'T LOOK FOR US TO SHOW A PROFIT IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS
1924

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS, MR. CHAIRMAN...
WE'LL TAKE THE REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE NEXT
AT PRESENT WE NATURALLY HAVE TO BUY A LOT OF INFORMATION FROM SMALL GANGS, BUT ONCE WE HAVE A TIGHT GRIP AND A SOUND STRUCTURE WE WON'T BE PAYING FOR IT ANY MORE
HOW SOON WE REACH THAT STAGE DEPENDS ON HOW SOON MONTALE HERE ESTABLISHES PROPER MAFIA DISCIPLINE AT ALL LEVELS IN THE BRITISH UNDERWORLD
1925

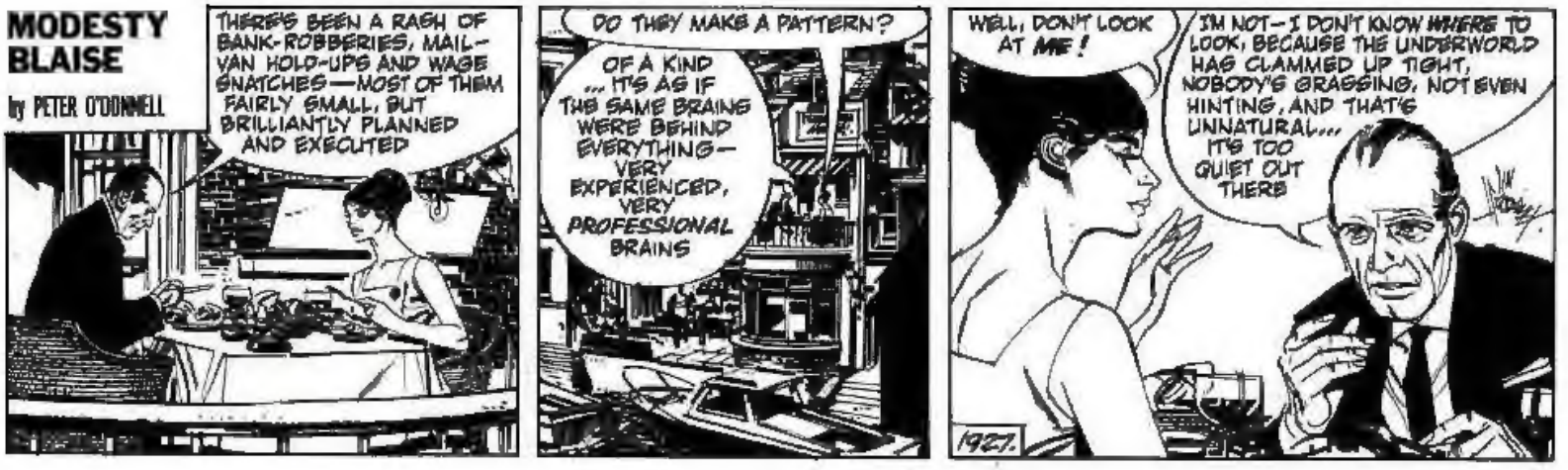
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

INSPECTOR BROCK OF SCOTLAND YARD TAKES MODESTY BLAISE TO LUNCH
SO YOU'VE BEEN MOVED TO A NEW JOB?
YES... THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO SEE YOU
IT WASN'T FOR THE PLEASURE OF MY COMPANY, THEN?
EH? OH— WELL, OF COURSE... CERTAINLY!
IF YOU CAN'T BE MORE CONVINCING THAN THAT, BROOKIE, WE MIGHT AS WELL ORDER, AND THEN GET DOWN TO WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU
1926

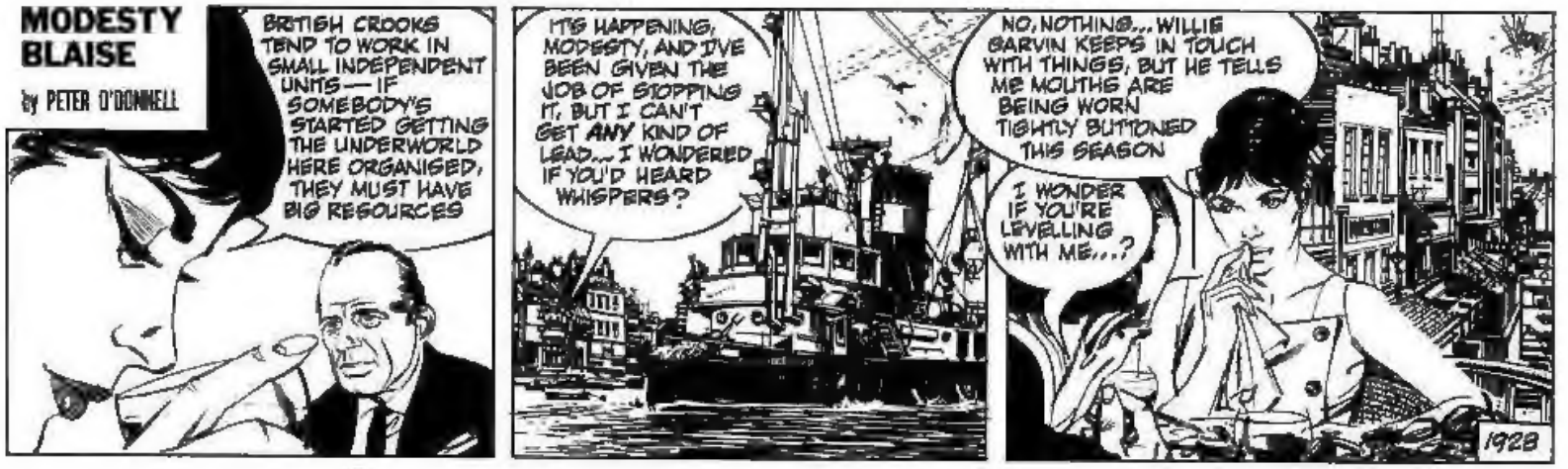
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


THERE'S BEEN A RASH OF BANK-ROBBERIES, MAIL-VAN HOLD-UPS AND WAGE SNATCHES—MOST OF THEM FAIRLY SMALL, BUT BRILLIANTLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED
DO THEY MAKE A PATTERN?
OF A KIND ... IT'S AS IF THE SAME BRAINS WERE BEHIND EVERYTHING— VERY EXPERIENCED, VERY PROFESSIONAL BRAINS
WELL, DON'T LOOK AT ME!
I'M NOT—I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK, BECAUSE THE UNDERWORLD HAS CLAMMED UP TIGHT, NOBODY'S GRASSING, NOT EVEN HINTING, AND THAT'S UNNATURAL... IT'S TOO QUIET OUT THERE
1927.

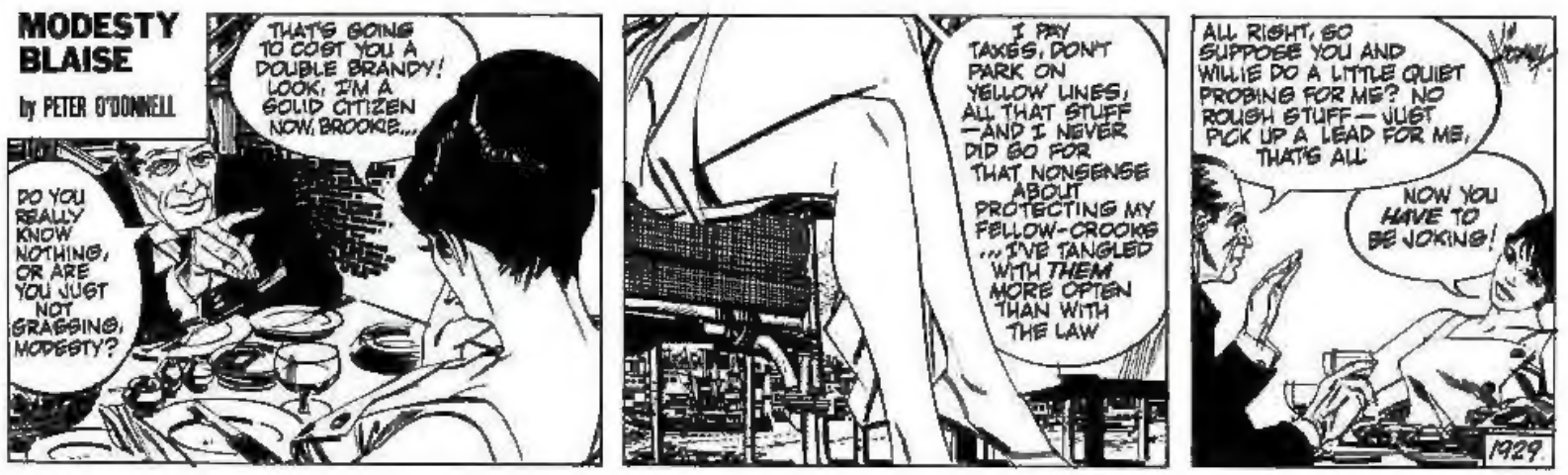
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


BRITISH CROOKS TEND TO WORK IN SMALL INDEPENDENT UNITS—IF SOMEBODY'S STARTED GETTING THE UNDERWORLD HERE ORGANISED, THEY MUST HAVE BIG RESOURCES
IT'S HAPPENING, MODESTY, AND I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE JOB OF STOPPING IT, BUT I CAN'T GET ANY KIND OF LEAD... I WONDERED IF YOU'D HEARD WHISPERS?
NO, NOTHING... WILLIE GARVIN KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH THINGS, BUT HE TELLS ME MOUTHS ARE BEING WORN TIGHTLY BUTTONED THIS SEASON
I WONDER IF YOU'RE LEVELLING WITH ME...?
1928

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


THAT'S GOING TO COST YOU A DOUBLE BRANDY! LOOK, I'M A SOLID CITIZEN NOW, BROOKIE...
DO YOU REALLY KNOW NOTHING, OR ARE YOU JUST NOT GRASSING, MODESTY?
I PAY TAXES, DON'T PARK ON YELLOW LINES, ALL THAT STUFF —AND I NEVER DID GO FOR THAT NONSENSE ABOUT PROTECTING MY FELLOW-CROOKS ... I'VE TANGLED WITH THEM MORE OFTEN THAN WITH THE LAW
ALL RIGHT, SO SUPPOSE YOU AND WILLIE DO A LITTLE QUIET PROBING FOR ME? NO ROUGH STUFF—JUST PICK UP A LEAD FOR ME, THAT'S ALL
NOW YOU HAVE TO BE JOKING!
1929

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WHAT'S SO CRAZY ABOUT YOU DOING A LITTLE SNOOPING FOR ME?
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, BROOKIE, I'M NOT BATMAN CRUSADING AGAINST CRIME —I DON'T LOOK FOR TROUBLE
NO? YOU LOOKED FOR IT HARD ENOUGH WHEN YOU WIPED OUT THAT BAD SUKI MOB
THAT WAS QUITE DIFFERENT! I MEAN... WELL, I GOT MAD WITH THEM
GOD SAVE ME FROM FEMALE LOGIC... I HAVEN'T THE STRENGTH TO ARGUE ANY MORE, SO LET'S FORGET IT
1930

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE FILM STUDIO BOARD-ROOM, THE MEETING CONTINUES

WE'LL TAKE SABINI'S REPORT ON TRAINING

THE HOODS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE A LITTLE RAW, MR. CHAIRMAN, BUT THERE'S GOOD MATERIAL THAT CAN BE LICKED INTO SHAPE — THEY'RE NOT REALLY BROKEN IN YET

I'D LIKE TO HAVE THEM A LITTLE MORE SCARED... I'M WORKING ON THIS WITH MONTALE, AND MAYBE HE'LL REPORT ON THAT AS HE'S IN CHARGE OF DISCIPLINE

SURE...

1931

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WE'RE GETTING THESE BRITISH MOBS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DISCIPLINE IS ABOUT, MR. CHAIRMAN — PRIME AIM IS TO ESTABLISH OUR MAFIA PRINCIPLE OF *OMERTA* — SILENCE

I'M GLAD TO SAY WE HAVE A DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED IN THE STUDIO FOR AS SOON AS THIS MEETING'S CLOSED, MR. CHAIRMAN

THANK YOU, MONTALE — ANY OTHER BUSINESS? NO? OKAY, MEETING ADJOURNED

WHEN NOBODY TALKS, WE'LL HAVE IT MADE — PROGRESS IS GOOD, BUT WE *NEED* A FEW BIG-MOUTHS AND REBELS SO WE CAN MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THEM

1932

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GATHER ROUND, EVERYBODY!

LOOK, WE GOT A VISIT FROM THE BIG BOYS...

IN THE MAFIA-CONTROLLED FILM STUDIO

MR. GABINI TELLS ME HE'S SATISFIED WITH REHEARSALS FOR THE WAGE SNATCH OUR FRIENDS THERE WILL BE DOING TOMORROW

NOW, THEY WANT TO FEEL *SECURE* — RIGHT?

THEY WANT TO KNOW THAT WE WON'T TALK AND WE WON'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES... AND *WE* WANT TO KNOW THE SAME ABOUT *THEM*

What's it getting at?

1933

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IT'S THE POLICY OF OUR HEAD OFFICE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ITS LOYAL PEOPLE... AND QUICK CARE OF ANYONE WHO'S *NOT* LOYAL — I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN...

A HUGE CURTAIN SWEEPS BACK

HERE'S A COUPLE OF GUYS WHO TRIED TO SELL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION, SO WE FIGURE IT'S TIME TO PART COMPANY — WE GO OUR WAY, THEY GO THEIRS

They're... going to *hang* 'em!

WE CALL IT A STAFF RE-SHUFFLE, ROFFEY — ESSENTIAL FOR RUNNING A NICE TIGHT BUSINESS

1934

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

OUR PARENT CORPORATION IN THE STATES USES OTHER METHODS FOR REDUNDANT STAFF, BUT AS A COURTESY TO THIS GREAT LITTLE COUNTRY OF YOURS, WE FIGURE TO MAINTAIN A FINE OLD TRADITION...
...OKAY, THEY CAN GO NOW, MR. SABINI
SEE? YOU BOYS HAVE FIRST-CLASS MANAGEMENT BEHIND YOU — WHEN YOU DO THAT WAGE-SNATCH TOMORROW YOU'LL FEEL A PART OF ONE BIG FAMILY, HUH?
OH, GAWD...!
1935

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN MODESTY'S PENTHOUSE, A WEEK AFTER HER MEETING WITH INSPECTOR BROOK
'ALLO, PRINCESS — GOT TIME FOR A QUICK LUNCH? I'M DOWNSTAIRS NOW
WHY QUICK, WILLIE?
I'M 'ELPING OUT A FRIEND WHO RUNS A GARAGE — HIS BREAKDOWN MAN WENT SICK, SO I CAN'T BE AWAY TOO LONG
I'LL BE DOWN IN TWO MINUTES, AND YOU'D BETTER GRAB A TAXI...
...THE ROLLS IS BEING SERVICED AND WENG'S OUT WITH THE JENSEN
IT'S OKAY, I GOT TRANSPORT
1936

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

RITZ ALL RIGHT FOR LUNCH, PRINCESS?
OH, FINE! I... I DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN THERE IN A BREAKDOWN VAN BEFORE — NICE TO GET OUT OF A RUT
OUGHT TO BE GOOD FOR A GIGGLE — WE'LL PLAY IT DEADPAN, AN' WATCH THE DOORMAN'S FACE
YOU KNOW... I WAS A BIT OFF COLOUR FOR A WHILE AFTER THAT MOB SCRAMBLED MY BRAINS IN COLORADO, BUT I THINK I'M ME OLD SELF AGAIN NOW
SO IT SEEMS...!
1937

MODESTY BLAISE

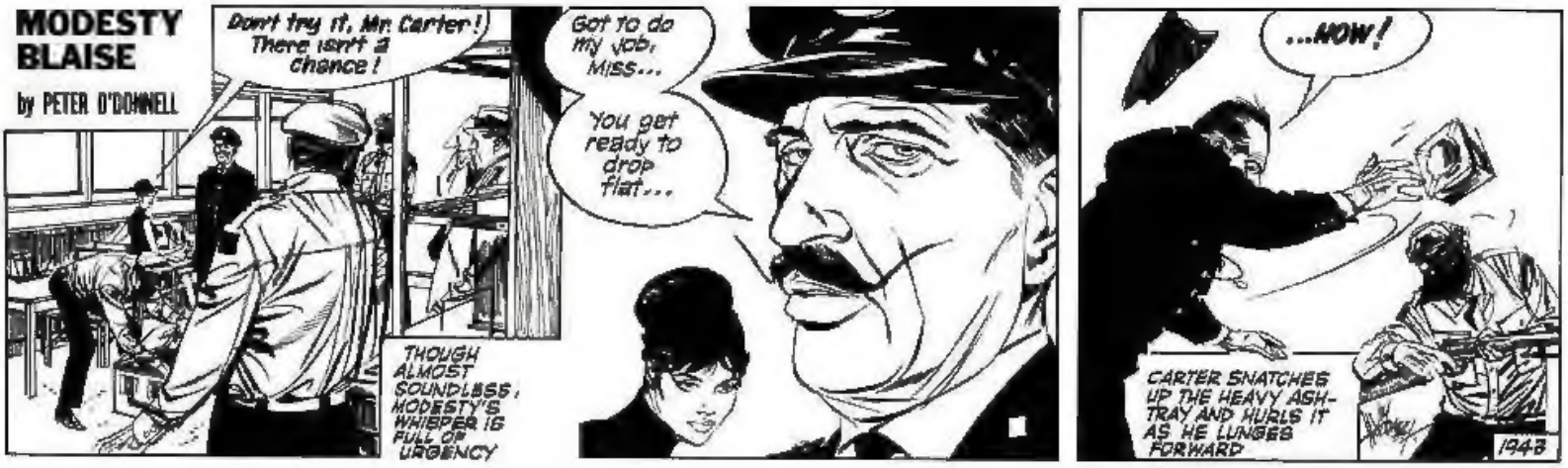
by PETER O'DONNELL

AFTER LUNCH AT THE RITZ...
THANK YOU
GOODBYE, MISS BLAISE
HARD LUCK, WILLIE — HE DIDN'T EVEN LIFT AN EYEBROW AT OUR TRANSPORT, COMING OR GOING
HE'S A PRO
NEVER MIND — CAN YOU STOP AT THE BANK FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES? I WANT TO CASH A CHEQUE
SURE... I CAN'T PARK THERE, BUT I'LL CRUISE ROUND THE BLOCK AND PICK YOU UP
1938

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE BANK
GOOD AFTERNOON, MISS BLAISE
HALLO, MR. CARTER— YOU'RE LOOKING VERY TANNED
JUST BACK FROM HOLIDAY, MISS— TOOK THE WIFE AND KIDS ABROAD FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND VERY NICE IT WAS, TOO—
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT
1939
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SPAIN, MISS
WHERE DID YOU TAKE THE FAMILY FOR THIS HOLIDAY?
I SPENT TEN YEARS ABROAD WITH THE ARMY, BUT I'D NEVER SEEN SPAIN BEFORE
EVERYBODY STAND QUITE STILL— AND YOU TELLERS NEEDN'T WASTE TIME PRESSING ALARM BUTTONS, THE WIRING'S BEEN CUT
1940
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
A BANK HOLD-UP— BY MEN DRESSED IN THE UNIFORM OF A SECURITY ORGANISATION
NO PANIC, PLEASE— YOU TELLERS PUT ALL PAPER MONEY FROM YOUR CASH-DRAWERS ON THE COUNTER
SAWN-OFF SHOTGUNS... POSITIONS JUST RIGHT FOR COVERING THE WHOLE FLOOR... ALL VERY COOL... THEY'RE PRO'S, DRILLED IN EVERY MOVE AND EVERY WORD...
1941
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE STRONGBOX IS QUICKLY FILLED WITH PAPER MONEY
NO FALSE MOVES ... THEY'VE REHEARSED THIS TO THE LAST DETAIL...
When I move, you drop flat on the floor, Miss...
If I can get my hands on one of those guns...
NO!
1942

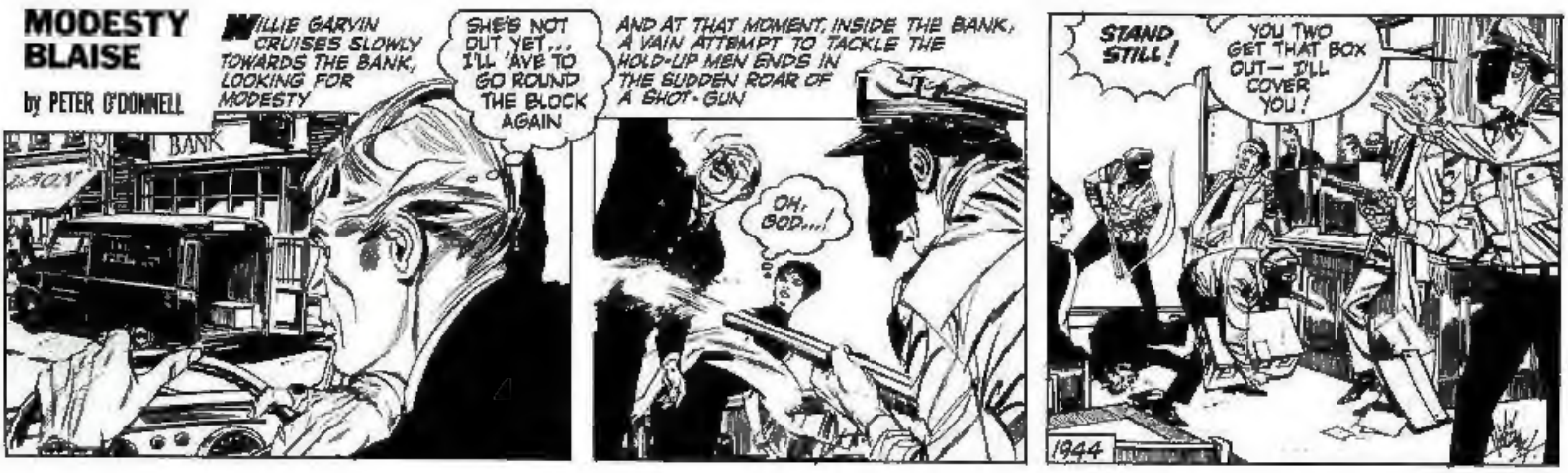
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


Don't try it, Mr. Carter! There isn't a chance!
Got to do my job, Miss...
You get ready to drop flat...
THOUGH ALMOST SOUNDLESS, MODESTY'S WHISPER IS FULL OF URGENCY
...NOW!
CARTER SNATCHES UP THE HEAVY ASH-TRAY AND HURLS IT AS HE LUNGES FORWARD
1943

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


WILLIE GARVIN CRUISES SLOWLY TOWARDS THE BANK, LOOKING FOR MODESTY
SHE'S NOT OUT YET... I'LL 'AVE TO GO ROUND THE BLOCK AGAIN
AND AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE BANK, A VAIN ATTEMPT TO TACKLE THE HOLD-UP MEN ENDS IN THE SUDDEN ROAR OF A SHOT-GUN
OH, GOD...!
STAND STILL!
YOU TWO GET THAT BOX OUT— I'LL COVER YOU!
1944

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AT THE SOUND OF THE SHOT FROM WITHIN THE BANK, WILLIE GARVIN PULLS IN TO THE KERB
SOMEONE'S DOING A JOB! AND THE PRINCESS IS IN THERE—!
'ERE THEY COME... AN' THAT MUST BE THE GETAWAY VAN BE'IND ME
WILLIE OPENS THE DOOR OF THE BREAKDOWN TRUCK AND WATCHES THE HOLD-UP GANG, BIDING HIS TIME...
NO GOOD GETTING BLASTED WITH A SAWN-OFF SHOT-GUN— I'LL WAIT TILL THEY'RE ABOARD
1945

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE STRONGBOX IS THROWN INTO THE BACK OF THE VAN... THE THREE HOLD-UP MEN SCRAMBLE ABOARD... THE DRIVER REVS UP...
AND AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT WILLIE GARVIN SENDS HIS BREAKDOWN TRUCK ROARING BACK ON FULL THROTTLE
SHAKE 'EM UP A BIT BEFORE I GET STUCK IN...
SMITH
GARAGE
INSIDE THE VAN...
UHH!
1946

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

DAZED BY THE CRASH, THE DRIVER OF THE GETAWAY VAN FUMBLES THE DOOR OPEN — AND WILLIE GARVIN IS WAITING FOR HIM
'OPE TO GOD THE PRINCESS DIDN'T GET 'URT IN THAT SHOOTING...
THREE OF 'EM INSIDE, ALL ARMED — BETTER TAKE 'EM FROM UP ON THE ROOF
THE DOORS OPEN
GET THE NEAREST CAR! SHOOT THE DRIVER IF YOU HAVE TO!
1947

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS THE HOLD-UP MEN JUMP FROM THE SMASHED VAN, WILLIE GARVIN REACHES DOWN FROM ABOVE...
...THEN THRUSTS WITH HIS FOOT AGAINST THE VENTILATOR AND SHOOTS FORWARD HEAD-FIRST AS THE THIRD MAN TURNS
ONLY A FEW SECONDS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE SHOT WAS FIRED, AND NOW THERE IS SUDDEN TURMOIL IN THE BANK
1948
CALL AN AMBULANCE — HURRY!

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE CHIEF CASHIER HEADS THE RUSH OUT INTO THE STREET
ROBBERY! A MAN'S BEEN SHOT! STOP THEM!
RELAX — THEY'RE STOPPED
WHY... MR. GARVIN! WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY FAINTED FROM EXCITEMENT — TAKE CARE OF 'EM AND KEEP MY NAME OUT OF IT — IS MISS BLAISE OKAY?
I-I THINK SO... IT WAS CARTER THEY SHOT
1949

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I WAS SCARED YOU'D COPPED IT, PRINCESS...
NO, THEY GOT CARTER — HE HAD A GO, BUT THERE WAS NEVER A CHANCE — THREE MEN, TWO WITH SHOTGUNS...
FOUR MEN, COUNTING THE DRIVER — I JUST CLOBBERED 'EM
DID YOU NOW...? THAT'S HIGH-GRADE PERFORMANCE
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK TO FORM, WILLIE — I THINK WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS
HE'S DYING
1950

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE DEAD MAN'S WIFE...
THE MAN FROM THE BANK WAS VERY KIND... AND IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO COME AND SEE ME, MISS
DID... DID BERT SAY ANYTHING TO YOU BEFORE HE ... DIED
HE ONLY SPOKE ONCE, MRS. CARTER — HE SAID, "EXPLAIN TO MY WIFE..."
EXPLAIN? CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN WHY A MAN THROWS AWAY HIS LIFE?
I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE SAID HE HAD HIS JOB TO DO... I THINK PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU
1951
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MY BERT FELT VERY STRONG ABOUT PEOPLE DOING THEIR DUTY... HE WAS A SOLDIER, YOU KNOW
YES
ALL THIS CRIME AND VIOLENCE MADE HIM VERY CROSS — HE USED TO SAY TO ME, "PEGGY, EVERYONE OUGHT TO GO FOR THESE VILLAINS REGARDLESS, SOON AS THEY SHOW THEIR UGLY FACES"
"IF WE ALL HAD A GO TOGETHER," HE'D SAY, "WE'D TAKE A FEW CASUALTIES TO BEGIN WITH, BUT SOON THEY WOULDN'T DARE START ANYTHING." — SILLY, WASN'T IT?
YES... BUT RIGHT, PERHAPS
1952
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY AND WILLIE GO TO SEE INSPECTOR BROOK
I KEPT YOUR NAME OUT OF THE PAPERS, WILLIE — WHAT ABOUT THE BANK REWARD?
GIVE IT TO MRS. CARTER
PITY IT TOOK A MURDER, RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, TO MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT HELPING ME FIND THE BRAINS BEHIND THIS CRIME-WAVE — YOU NEED TO BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED, OF COURSE?
THAT'S RIGHT — AND NOW I AM, SO STOP BITCHING AT ME AND LET'S GET DOWN TO CASES
HAVE THOSE HOLD-UP MEN TALKED YET?
1953
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NO... THE HOLD-UP MEN HAVEN'T TALKED YET, AND I DON'T THINK THEY WILL — THEY'RE SO CONFIDENT IT SCARES ME
I THINK THEY'RE DEAD SURE THAT WHOEVER'S BEHIND THEM WILL SPRING THEM FROM GAOL SOMEHOW — BEFORE OR AFTER THE TRIAL
THAT FITS THE PATTERN OF A BIG ORGANISATION TAKING OVER BRITISH CRIME
THE PATERNAL POLICY — THEY PROBABLY RUN A PENSION SCHEME
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
1954

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE KNOW THESE BOYS WHO DID THE JOB, THEY'VE GOT PLENTY OF FORM— BUT THIS WHOLE THING IS WAY ABOVE THEIR CLASS, THEY'RE SMALL-TIMERS
THEY OPERATED LIKE EXPERTS, BROOKIE
YES— BECAUSE THEY'RE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, THEY HAVE BRAINS BEHIND THEM NOW, PLANNING FOR THEM, TRAINING THEM...
IF THAT HAPPENS WITH ALL THE SMALL-TIME MOBS, THEN GOD HELP US — THIS COUNTRY WILL GET TO BE LIKE AMERICA IN THE TWENTIES AS FAR AS CRIME'S CONCERNED
1955
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IF THESE MEN WON'T TALK, YOU'RE NO FURTHER FORWARD
THAT'S RIGHT— SO WE'VE NOTHING ON FILE THAT WILL HELP YOU
OUR REGULAR INFORMERS HAVE LOST THEIR VOICES — BUT YOU HAVE ACCESS TO AREAS OF THE UNDERWORLD THAT WE CAN'T PENETRATE; SO I'M HOPING YOU'LL MAKE A BREAK-THROUGH
I JUST WANT INFORMATION — ANY WHISPER YOU CAN PICK UP THAT MIGHT GIVE ME A LEAD TO THE BIG BRAINS, THE NEW BOYS
WE'LL SEE HOW IT GOES
1956
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I'M AFRAID SEARCHING FOR A LEAD WILL BE A LONG, SLOW JOB FOR YOU
OH, IT'S BOUND TO BE
WE'LL JUST 'AVE TO BE PATIENT
DIGGING LIKE MOLES HARDLY SEEMS THEIR STYLE, SIR
IT'S NOT, AND THEY WON'T, SERGEANT— I KNOW THEIR STYLE...
SOMEHOW THEY'LL MAKE THINGS START HAPPENING TO FETCH THE BIG BRAINS AFTER THEM... AND THEN THERE'LL BE WAR
1957
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN MODESTY'S PENTHOUSE
IF WE'RE GOING TO PLAY THE LIVE-BAIT CAPER, WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO MAKE 'EM COME FISHING FOR US, D'YOU THINK?
I THINK IF YOU STOP STIRRING CHEESE SAUCE IT GOES LUMPY!
OOH, SORRY!
REMEMBER THAT BIG POST OFFICE JOB TWO YEARS AGO, WHEN CHAPPIE LOMAX'S GANG PICKED UP £750,000 IN USED NOTES?
SURE— THE GANG GOT NICKED BUT THE LOOT WAS NEVER FOUND
1958

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SUPPOSE YOU FILTERED A RUMOUR INTO THE GRAPEVINE... THAT MODESTY BLAISE KNOWS WHERE THE CASH FROM THAT POST OFFICE JOB IS HIDDEN?
I COULD DRESS IT UP TO SOUND POSSIBLE, BUT—
GOOD— £750,000 IN CASH SHOULD MAKE ME RICH ENOUGH BAIT TO TEMPT THE BIG BRAINS
IT'S PLENTY. THEY'VE KILLED FOR LESS— LOOK, I'LL PLAY THE BAIT, PRINCESS—
LUMPS! THAT'S BECAUSE YOU STOPPED STIRRING! REALLY, WILLIE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN THE DINNER WE'D BETTER LEAVE TALKING 'TIL AFTERWARDS
1959

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AFTER DINNER, IN MODESTY'S WORK-ROOM
IF I SPREAD THIS RUMOUR, THE NEW BOYS'LL BURN 'OLES N YOU TO FIND OUT WHERE THE LOOT'S STASHED
YOU MUSTN'T START GETTING FUSSY ABOUT ME, WILLIE LOVE
I'LL TALK BEFORE THEY PUT THE SCREWS ON TOO HARD... THEN I'LL WORK TH NGS SO I HAVE TO TAKE THEM TO THE PLACE— AND YOU'LL BE WAITING FOR US
WHERE?
I DON'T KNOW YET... SOME VERY REMOTE PLACE, WHERE WE CAN GET NOISY WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION ... THE YORKSHIRE MOORS, MAYBE
I'LL GET THE MAPS
1960.

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

A RUMOUR FILTERS THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD
BLAISE?
SURE... THE WORD IS THAT CHAPPIE LOMAX TOLD HER WHERE HE STASHED THE LOOT TWO DAYS BEFORE THE FUZZ GOT HIM
AND SHE HASN'T TOUCHED IT?
NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW— BUT SHE'D BEEN ON THE STRAIGHT FOR A LONG TIME NOW, AND SHE'S LOADED ANYWAY
1961

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ON THE YORKSHIRE MOORS
WE'RE ABOUT FIVE MILES FROM THAT TRACK WHERE WE LEFT THE CAR, PRINCESS
THIS SHOULD DO... I'LL LEAD THEM IN FROM DOWN THERE, AND YOU'LL BE UP HERE WITH A RIFLE... WHEN YOU START SHOOTING THEY'LL SCATTER, AND I'LL DIVE FOR COVER
LET'S FIND A GOOD PLACE FOR ME TO HEAD FOR, THEN WE CAN WORK OUT TIMES AND DISTANCES
1962

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE'LL HIDE ANOTHER RIFLE HERE, WILLIE...
YOU START SHOOTING FROM ABOVE WHEN I PASS THAT ROCK... WHEN THEY SCATTER I'LL RUN FOR THIS CRANNY. THEN WE'LL HAVE THEM IN A CROSS-FIRE
I SHOOT FOR REAL? NO CHANCES?
THEY'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE THAN CARTER... THEY BLASTED HIM WITH A SHOTGUN AT SIX FEET
1965
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE'LL SET THINGS UP HERE, THEN HEAD BACK TO LONDON—YOU TAKE A TRIP ABROAD AND DOUBLE BACK HERE; I'LL JUST WAIT TO BE SNATCHED
IF YOU TALK TOO EASY THEY'LL SMELL A RAT... YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE SOME JUMPS, PRINCESS
THAT'S BUILT-IN TO THE GAME, WILLIE—I'LL TRY TO JUDGE IT RIGHT
FIVE DAYS LATER, IN THE FILM STUDIOS WHICH ARE A COVER FOR THE MAFIA TAKE-OVER OF THE BRITISH UNDERWORLD
MEETING DECLARED OPEN...
1964
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ONLY ONE ITEM ON THIS AGENDA... YOU'VE ALL HAD COPIES OF AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT CONCERNING A WOMAN CALLED MODESTY BLAISE
IF THIS IS TRUE, WE CAN PICK UP AN EASY £750,000—THAT'S BIG MONEY FOR VERY LITTLE TROUBLE
YOU'RE CONCERNED WITH FINANCE—WHAT DOES INTELLIGENCE SAY?
QUITE A LOT, MR. CHAIRMAN
FIRST LET'S NOT THINK OF BLAISE OR HER SIDE-KICK GARVIN, AS A LITTLE TROUBLE... AND SECOND, THIS IS A TRAP!
1965.
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
TWO DAYS AGO, SOON AFTER WE PICKED UP THIS STORY ABOUT HIDDEN LOOT, GARVIN LEFT THE COUNTRY—HE FLEW TO PARIS, THEN HAMBURG
FINE—THAT LEAVES BLAISE ON HER OWN
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD IT ALL YET
I DIDN'T HAVE GARVIN TAILED, HE'S TOO SMART NOT TO SPOT A SHADOW BUT I HAD OUR EUROPEAN CONTACTS CHECK HIS MOVEMENTS...
... AND AFTER FOUR HOURS IN HAMBURG HE BOOKED A FLIGHT BACK TO PRESTWICK! HE WAS ON THAT FLIGHT HE LANDED AT PRESTWICK ... AND NOW HE'S DISAPPEARED
1966

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
FROM YORKSHIRE, WILLIE GARVIN MAKES A PHONE-CALL
I'M BACK, PRINCESS— IF ANYONE CHECKS ON ME THEY'LL RECKON I'M IN PARIS OR 'AMBURG...
...I'LL BE IN POSITION AT THE PLACE WE PICKED FOR A SHOW-DOWN IN TWELVE HOURS
FINE... YOU MAY HAVE A LONG WAIT, I DON'T KNOW IF OR WHEN THE NEW BOYS WILL SNATCH ME...
BUT I'LL START MAKING IT EASY FOR THEM NOW— CAN YOU CAMP OUT THERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS WILLIE?
SURE, I GOT EVERYTHING I'LL NEED
1967

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE CAN'T PASS UP £750,000 UNLESS YOU'RE SURE THIS IS A TRAP
I'M ONLY EIGHTY PERCENT SURE— SO I RECOMMEND WE PLAY IT STRAIGHT
IF WE DO NOTHING, THEY'LL COME AT US SOME OTHER WAY— SO LET'S GRAB BLAISE AND MAKE HER TELL WHERE THIS LOOT'S HIDDEN...
...IF SHE GIVES US A STORY THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO GO SOMEPLACE THE KIND OF PLACE WHERE GARVIN MIGHT BE LAYING FOR US — THEN THAT'S THE OTHER TWENTY PERCENT
1968

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY MOVES DOWN TO HER COTTAGE IN WILTSHIRE . . .
JUST BRING MY CASE IN, WENG, THEN YOU CAN GET STRAIGHT BACK TO TOWN
WHEN WILL YOU BE RETURNING, MISS BLAISE?
I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET... DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU CAN'T REACH ME HERE BY PHONE I MAY BE AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS
BE CAREFUL, PLEASE
WHAT STARTED YOU GUESSING, WENG? HAVE I BEEN CARELESS?
NO... BUT MR. GARVIN SEEMED ANXIOUS... HE IS NEVER ANXIOUS EXCEPT ABOUT YOU, AND THEN ONLY WHEN SOMETHING VERY UNLUCKY LIES AHEAD
1969

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY RIDES OUT EACH MORNING, ALWAYS TAKING THE SAME ROUTE
AND SPENDS HER DAYS AND NIGHTS ALONE
ON THE THIRD DAY...
A STRANGER... THIS COULD BE THE START OF IT... BUT THE BIG BRAINS WOULDN'T SEND ONLY ONE MAN TO GET ME...
1970

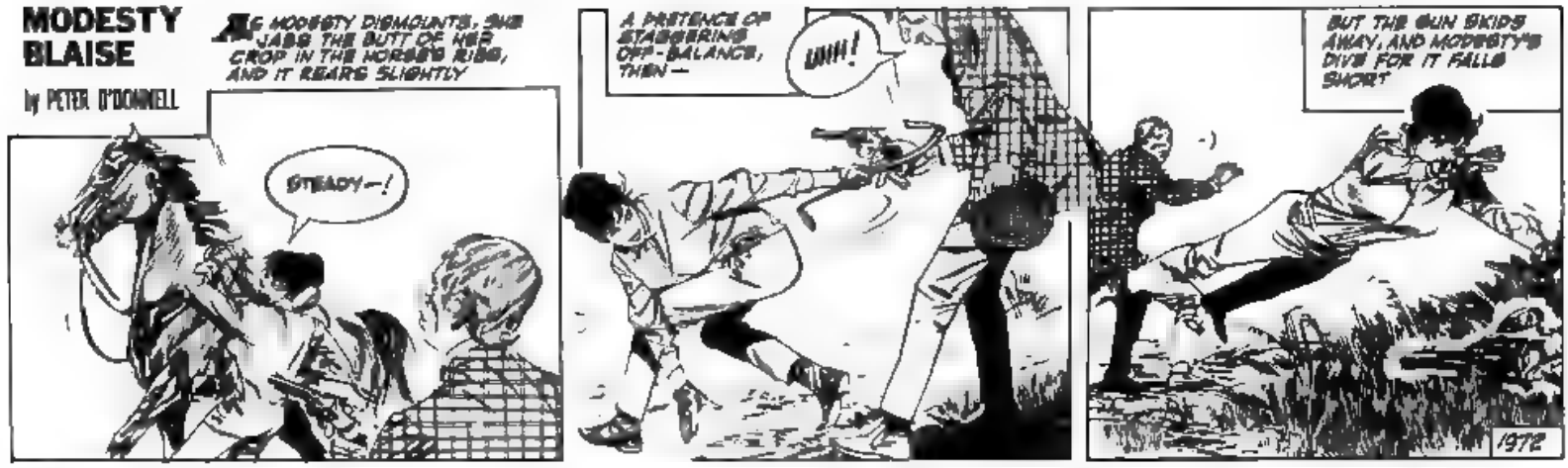
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

EXCUSE ME...
AS MODESTY REINS IN HER HORSE...
OKAY, COME ON DOWN— NICE AND SLOW! AND GET YOUR HANDS UP
ALL AT ONCE?
JUST DON'T ACT SMART
CAN'T LET MYSELF BE TAKEN BY ONE MAN... IT'LL LOOK SUSPICIOUS.. THEY MUST HAVE SENT MORE...
1971

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


AS MODESTY DISMOUNTS, SHE JABS THE BUTT OF HER CROP IN THE HORSE'S RIBS, AND IT REARS SLIGHTLY
STEADY—!
A PRETENCE OF STAGGERING OFF-BALANCE, THEN—
UHH!
BUT THE GUN SKIDS AWAY, AND MODESTY'S DIVE FOR IT FALLS SHORT
1972

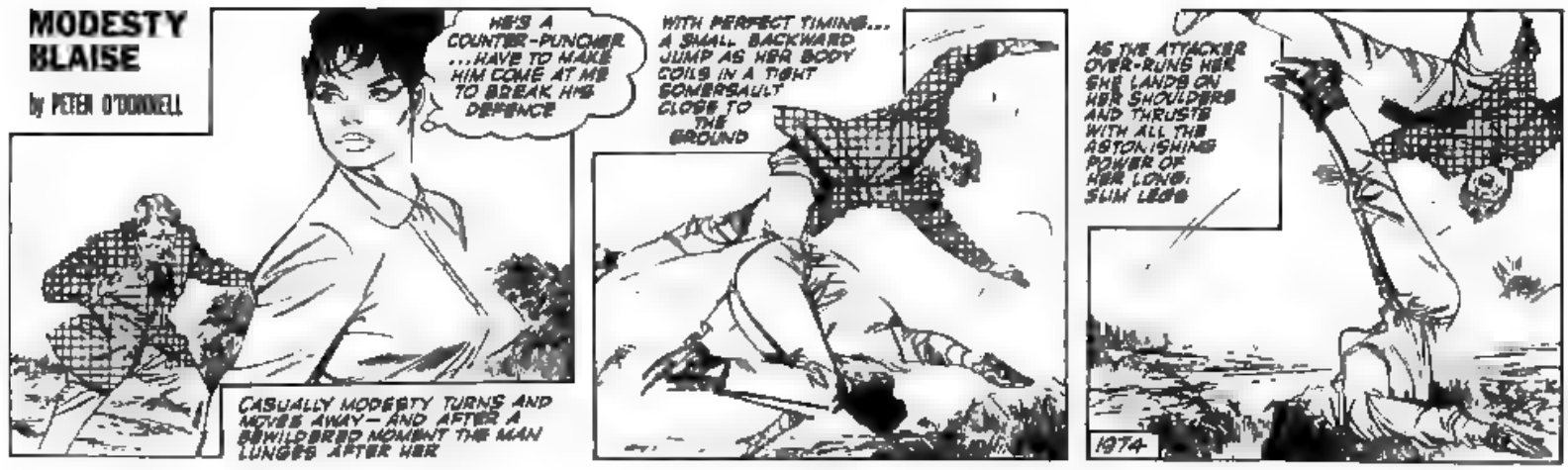
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY TWISTS AWAY FROM A VICIOUS KICK...
... AND COMES TO HER FEET
IF HE TRIES FOR THE GUN I CAN TAKE HIM EASILY...
BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO...
MOVES WELL... GOOD POSTURE... HE'S A HAND-TO-HAND MAN—HAPPIER WITHOUT THE GUN...
1973

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


HE'S A COUNTER-PUNCHER ...HAVE TO MAKE HIM COME AT ME TO BREAK HIS DEFENCE
CASUALLY MODESTY TURNS AND MOVES AWAY— AND AFTER A BEWILDERED MOMENT THE MAN LUNGES AFTER HER
WITH PERFECT TIMING... A SMALL BACKWARD JUMP AS HER BODY COILS IN A TIGHT SOMERSAULT CLOSE TO THE GROUND
AS THE ATTACKER OVER-RUNS HER SHE LANDS ON HER SHOULDERS AND THRUSTS WITH ALL THE ASTONISHING POWER OF HER LONG, SLIM LEGS
1974

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY'S OPPONENT LANDS WITH AN IMPACT THAT KNOCKS ALL THE BREATH FROM HIS BODY

WELL... IF HE WAS WORKING SINGLE-HANDED I'VE PLAYED TOO HARD TO GET

THAT WAS TERRIBLY NEAT, MISS BLAISE— NOW WE'LL TRY IT THIS WAY... DON'T BOTHER ABOUT THE GUN, OLD DEAR

AH... THAT'S BETTER

1975

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

WE'LL JUST TAKE YOUR HORSE BACK TO THE STABLES, THEN WE CAN ALL BE ON OUR WAY

JOHN STRICKLAND, BETTER KNOWN AS THE COLLEGE BOY...

... WITH A RECORD OF FRAUD, DEMANDING MONEY WITH MENACES BLACKMAIL AND GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM

THAT'S ME OLD DEAR, A VERY SPITEFUL FELLOW— DO BEAR IT IN MIND WHILE MY LITTLE CHUM GETS A ROPE ON YOUR HANDS

1976

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY IS TAKEN ON A LONG JOURNEY BY CAR, HER EYES BLINDFOLD, HER HANDS BOUND

AND LATER THAT DAY...

NOW WE COME TO THE AMUSING BIT, OLD DEAR... AMUSING FOR ME, I MEAN

SIT DOWN

THEY PICKED UP BLAISE OKAY— STRICKLAND'S GETTING TO WORK ON HER IN THAT CELLAR MOCK-UP ON STAGE TWO

1977

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL

STRICKLAND SET ONE MAN ON BLAISE AT FIRST, TO TRY HER OUT— AND SHE JUST TOOK HIM APART

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SHE WANTED TO BE SNATCHED...

...YOU STILL THINK IT'S A TRAP?

I THINK SHE'S TOO SMART TO MAKE A TRAP LOOK LIKE A TRAP— LET'S SEE HOW SHE HANDLES THE NEXT SCENE

THE TIME HAS COME, DEAR MISS BLAISE, FOR YOU TO TALK

COPIA VERBORUM, AS MY OXFORD TUTOR USED TO SAY— MUCH FLUENCY, IF YOU PLEASE

1978

MODESTY BLAISE

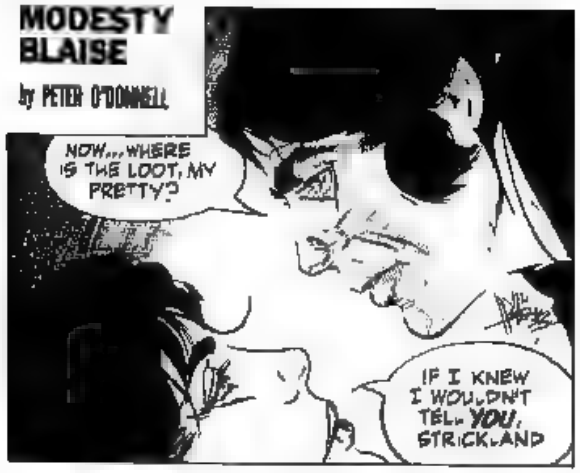
by PETER O'DONNELL

TWO YEARS AGO CHAPPIE LOMAX AND HIS MOB DID A POST OFFICE JOB, AND TUCKED AWAY £750,000 IN CASH BEFORE THEY WERE CAUGHT...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

YOU SURELY DON'T BELIEVE EVERY CRAZY RUMOUR THAT RUNS THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE?
RUMOUR? I HOPE NOT, FOR YOUR SAKE — BECAUSE I'M GOING TO OPERATE ON THE THEORY THAT YOU DO KNOW THE ANSWER
1979

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I THINK I'LL HAVE THE BOYS HOLD YOU FOR ME, SWEETHEART— I'M NOT SURE I'M GETTING THROUGH TO YOU
I'VE TAKEN ENOUGH TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD... TIME I GAVE IN A LITTLE...
1981

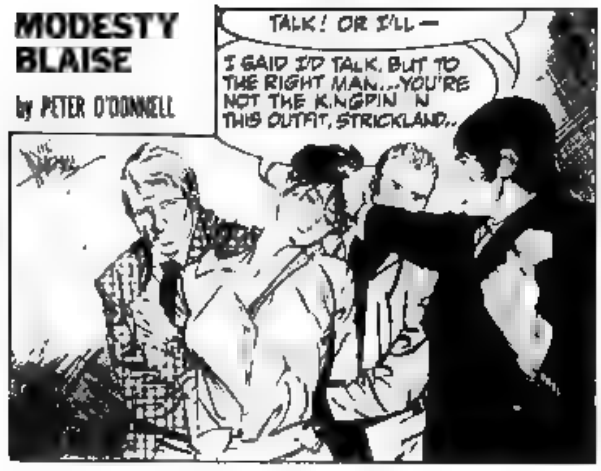
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SPLENDID! YOU'VE EARNED "A" FOR EFFORT! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT IF YOU TRIED... AND WHERE IS THAT NICE THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION?
WHERE?...

MODESTY BLAISE

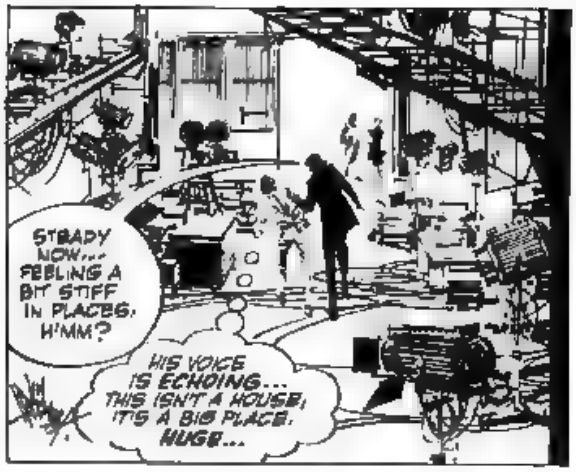
by PETER O'DONNELL



MODESTY BLAISE

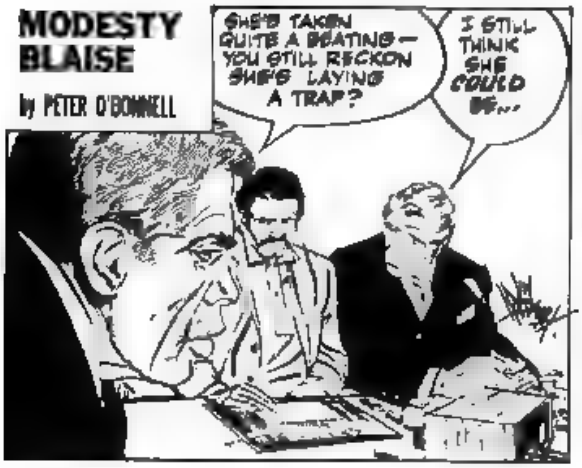
by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY IS TAKEN FROM THE STUDIO-BUILT CELLAR BLINDFOLD



MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



SHE'S WORKED TH NOB SO SHE GETS TO TALK WITH US, AND THAT'S THE FIRST THING SHE'D HAVE TO DO... LET'S SEE HOW SHE FIGURES TO HAND US THE LOOT, THEN WE'LL KNOW

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE BLINDFOLD IS REMOVED, AND MODESTY GAZES SLOWLY ROUND THE MEN AT THE TABLE. THEN—

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SAY YOUR PIECE
I KNOW WHERE CHAPPIE LOMAX HID THE LOOT. I'VE KNOWN FOR TWO YEARS. BUT I'VE NEVER TOUCHED IT BECAUSE I DON'T NEED IT...
...SO YOU CAN HAVE IT AND WELCOME—AS LONG AS I DON'T GET RUBBED OUT AFTERWARDS
WE'LL MEET YOU ON THAT POINT
THERE'S NO WAY FOR YOU TO PROVE YOU'LL KEEP YOUR WORD SO I'LL TELL YOU WHY YOU'LL BE FOOLS TO BREAK IT...
1987

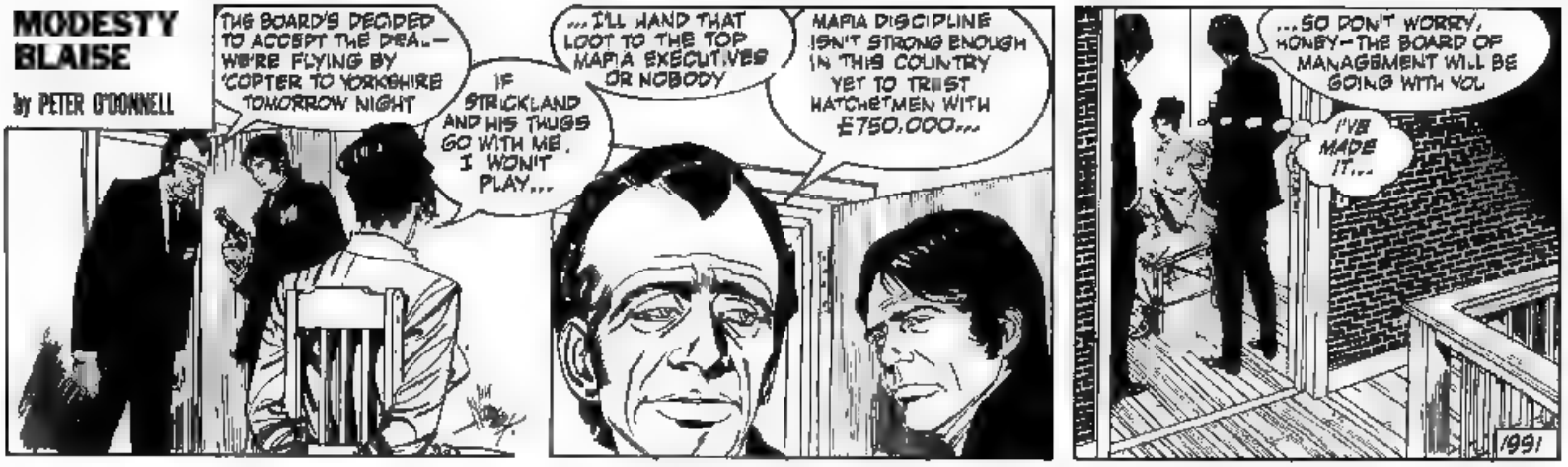
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IF YOU BREAK YOUR PROMISE AND KILL ME, WILLIE GARVIN WILL COME AFTER YOU...AND HE'LL FIND YOU. HE'S VERY SINGLE-MINDED WHEN HE GOES COLD BERSERK
HE CAN'T BEAT THE WHOLE MAFIA BUT I GUARANTEE HE'LL WIPE OUT TWO-THIRDS OF YOU MEN HERE BEFORE YOU GET HIM —SO THINK ABOUT IT
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT... NOW TELL US WHERE THE LOOT IS
1988

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE LOOT'S HIDDEN IN A GULLY ON THE YORKSHIRE MOORS. YOU CAN GET TO WITHIN FIVE MILES OF IT BY ROAD, BUT I CAN'T DESCRIBE THE REST OF THE ROUTE
...IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD— A ROCK, A BUSH, A TWIST OF GROUND. A HUNDRED SMALL LANDMARKS YOU'D NEVER RECOGNISE
SO... YOU HAVE TO TAKE US THERE?
YES
...AND THAT MEANS IT'S A TRAP!
1989

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY IS PLACED UNDER GUARD IN A SMALL ROOM
AND THE MAFIA GO INTO CONFERENCE
SURE IT'S A TRAP, MR. CHAIRMAN—GARVIN'S LAYING FOR US ON THE MOORS—BUT THERE'S STILL A CHANCE THAT THE BAIT'S REAL, THAT THE LOOT'S THERE
ANYWAY WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE'VE GOT GARVIN BEFORE WE RUB OUT BLASE, SO LET'S PLAY ALONG... BUT TAKING A FEW PRECAUTIONS
1990

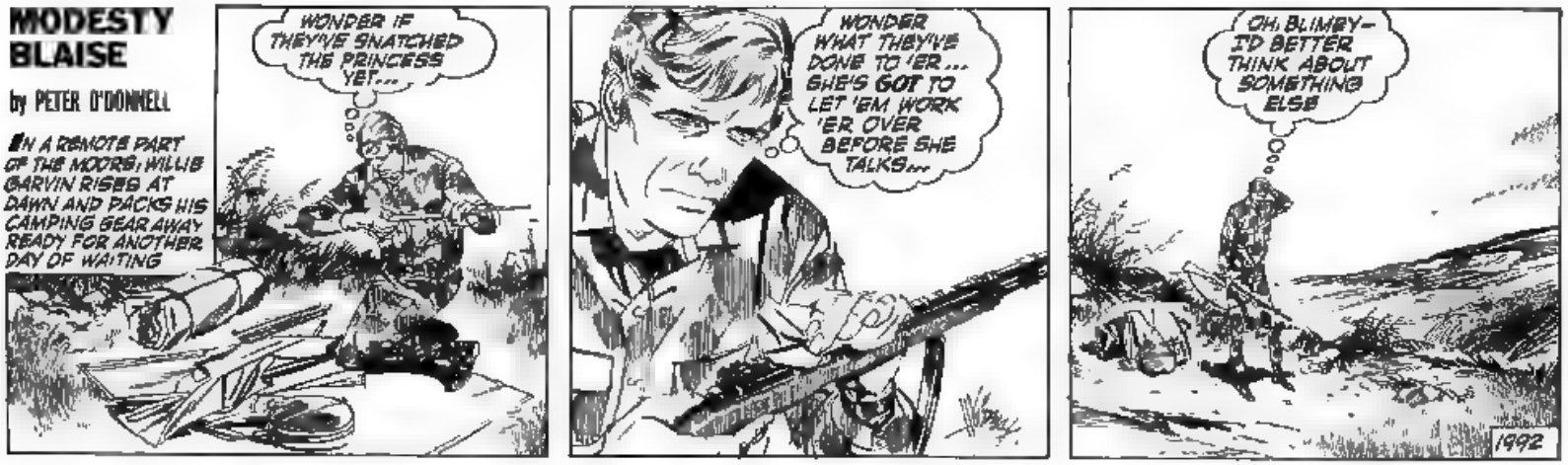
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


THE BOARD'S DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE DEAL— WE'RE FLYING BY 'COPTER TO YORKSHIRE TOMORROW NIGHT
IF STRICKLAND AND HIS THUGS GO WITH ME, I WON'T PLAY...
...I'LL HAND THAT LOOT TO THE TOP MAFIA EXECUTIVES OR NOBODY
MAFIA DISCIPLINE ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH IN THIS COUNTRY YET TO TRUST HATCHETMEN WITH £750,000...
...SO DON'T WORRY, HONEY—THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT WILL BE GOING WITH YOU
I'VE MADE IT...
1991

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


IN A REMOTE PART OF THE MOORS, WILLIE GARVIN RISES AT DAWN AND PACKS HIS CAMPING GEAR AWAY READY FOR ANOTHER DAY OF WAITING
WONDER IF THEY'VE SNATCHED THE PRINCESS YET...
WONDER WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO 'ER... SHE'S GOT TO LET 'EM WORK 'ER OVER BEFORE SHE TALKS...
OH, BLIMEY— I'D BETTER THINK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE
1992

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

A HELICOPTER TOUCHES DOWN ON THE MOORS, NEAR A ROAD WHERE A BIG CAR IS WAITING
YOU MADE IT, NICCO
NO SWEAT, MR CHAIRMAN— PICKED UP THE AUTOMOBILE N COVENTRY LAST NIGHT... SHE'S BULLET-PROOF
CUSTOM-BUILT FOR SOME SHEIK, BUT HE SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF IT SOONER —HE GOT RUBBED OUT BEFORE HE COULD TAKE DELIVERY
BULLET-PROOF CAR? WHY...?
1993

MODESTY BLAISE

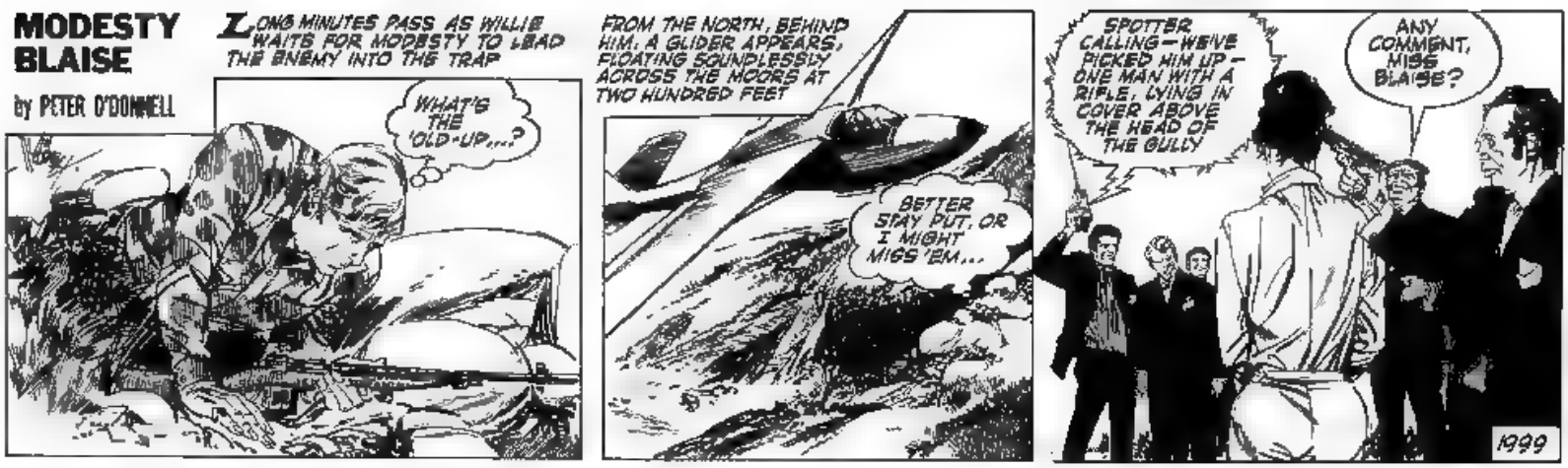
by PETER O'DONNELL

WE CAN GO ABOUT FOUR MILES OVER THE MOORS BY CAR —THE LAST MILE WE'LL HAVE TO WALK
OKAY— GET IN
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...
'ERE THEY COME! THE PRINCESS MADE IT, THEN...
BEAR LEFT A LITTLE PAST THAT SMALL ROCK THEN WE HAVE TO SWING RIGHT, AND LOOP ROUND A STRETCH OF ROUGH GROUND
WILLIE MUST HAVE SIGHTED US BY NOW...
1994

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THEY'RE GETTING OUT OF THE CAR... AH, THERE'S THE PRINCESS!
THEY CAN'T 'VE ROUGHED 'ER UP TOO BAD — SHE'S MOVING OKAY
TIME I GOT IN POSITION FOR THE SHOOT-UP... BE GLAD TO GET THIS LOT OVER AND GO 'OME
1995
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HOW MUCH FARTHER?
WE'RE ALMOST THERE — THE LOOT'S HIDDEN AT THE END OF THAT BLIND GULLY YOU CAN SEE AHEAD
OKAY... LET'S STOP RIGHT HERE
WHAT'S WORRYING YOU?
SOME OF US HAVE THE CRAZY IDEA YOU'RE LEADING US INTO A TRAP, MISS BLAISE — SO WE'RE JUST CHECKING
KEEP REAL STILL
1996
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IF YOU WANT TO WASTE TIME, GO AHEAD - HOW DO YOU FIGURE I COULD HAVE FIXED A TRAP FOR YOU?
WITH GARVIN — WE KNOW HE WENT ABROAD AND DOUBLED BACK, AND WE THINK HE'S WAITING FOR US SO WE AIM TO MAKE SURE
MY GOD, THEY'VE OUT-CONNED ME...
AND A HUNDRED AND FIFTY YARDS AWAY...
ALL SET... THE PRINCESS 'LL BE LEADING 'EM IN SOON
1997
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SLEAKILY MODESTY REALISES THAT THE TRAP SHE AND WILLIE SO CAREFULLY LAID HAS BEEN SUSPECTED ALL ALONG
HALLO FLYPAST, DO YOU READ ME? DO YOU HAVE A FIX ON US?
FLYPAST ANSWERING... HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR... HAVE FIX ON YOU
OKAY...
... CAST OFF SPOTTER SO HE COMES IN FROM NORTH
ROGER
1998

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


LONG MINUTES PASS AS WILLIE WAITS FOR MODESTY TO LEAD THE ENEMY INTO THE TRAP
WHAT'S THE 'OLD-UP...?
FROM THE NORTH, BEHIND HIM, A GLIDER APPEARS, FLOATING SOUNDLESSLY ACROSS THE MOORS AT TWO HUNDRED FEET
BETTER STAY PUT, OR I MIGHT MISS 'EM...
SPOTTER CALLING—WE'VE PICKED HIM UP— ONE MAN WITH A RIFLE, LYING IN COVER ABOVE THE HEAD OF THE GULLY
ANY COMMENT, MISS BLAISE?
1999

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IT IS NOT UNTIL WILLIE SEES THE GREAT SHADOW OF THE GLIDER MOVE ACROSS THE GULLY THAT HE REALISES THE TRUTH
I'M BLOWN! THEY KNOW...
A VOICE BOOMS OUT OVER A LOUD-HAILER
GARVIN! WE'VE GOT A GUN AT HER HEAD!
COME OUT NICE AND EASY, OR SHE'S DEAD!
2000

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE GARVIN MOVES OUT FROM COVER...
THEY'VE GOT 'ER ALL RIGHT— WE'RE UP TO OUR NECKS IN IT NOW
DROP THE GUN!
THE MAFIA WAIT IN SILENCE AS WILLIE TRUDGES ACROSS THE MOOR-LAND
WE CAN OUT-RUN THEM... THEY'VE ONLY GOT HAND-GUNS... NOT LIKELY TO HIT ANYTHING AT MORE THAN TEN PACES...
MODESTY FLICKS HER HEAD ASIDE AND LUNGES BACK, BUTTING HARD
RUN, WILLIE!
2001

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY THROWS MONTALE...
...AND TURNS TO RUN
GO, WILLIE!
IF SHE CAN GET TWENTY YARDS BEFORE THEY GUN 'ER DOWN SHE'LL 'AVE A GOOD CHANCE—!
ONE SHOT GOES WIDE... AND THEN NICCO HURLS THE RADIO
2002

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE RADIO HITS MODESTY ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD AND SHE GOES DOWN, DAZED FOR A MOMENT

NO SHOOTING! IF WE KILL HER, WE LOSE GARVIN — JUST GRAB HER!

NICE TRY, BUT IT WENT SOUR — COME ON N. GARVIN, OR WE START PISTOL-WHIPPING HER

THE LOUD HAILER BOOMS AGAIN

REAL GOOD THROW, NICCO

I PLAYED A LOT OF BASEBALL AS A KID, MR. CHAIRMAN ... BEST PITCHER IN THE REFORM SCHOOL

2003

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE ESCAPE BID FAILS ... MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE CAUGHT IN THE TRAP THEY LAID FOR THE MAFIA

YOU STILL JUST *MIGHT* BUY YOURSELF OUT OF THIS — IF THE LOOT'S REALLY HERE GARVIN

THEN I WISH IT WAS, MATBY, BUT YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK ... AND SO ARE WE

YOU ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS?

I'VE FELT BETTER ... YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT RUNNING WILD

2004

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WE KNOCK THEM OFF NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN? THESE MOORS ARE JUST FINE FOR IT — WON'T EVEN NEED TO BURY THEM

WELL ...

... THAT'S GOOD THINKING IF WE EVALUATE SIMPLY ON A TIME-AND-MOTION BASIS, NICCO — WHAT DO YOU SAY, MONTALE?

I SAY LET'S TAKE THEM BACK TO THE STUDIOS FOR EXECUTION ...

THEY'VE GOT A BIG REPUTATION, SO WE'LL NEVER HAVE A BETTER EXAMPLE TO SHOW THE BRITISH HOODS WE MEAN BUSINESS

IF YOU WANT *OUR* VOTE —

SHUDDUP!

2005

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE GARVIN IS STRIPPED AND SEARCHED

QUITE A COLLECTION — MATCHBOX RADIO, TEAR-GAS PEN, PROBES, KNIVES, A SLING AND SLINGSHOT —

LET HIM DRESS, THEN TIE HIM UP

MONTALE SPOKE OF "STUDIOS" ... MUST BE WHERE I WAS WORKED OVER IN THAT PHONEY CELLAR ... BIG, ECHOING PLACE OUTSIDE, WITH CABLES ON THE FLOOR ..

FILM STUDIOS AS AN H.Q. ...! IDEAL FOR PRACTISING 'OLD-UPS .. MUST BE THE STUDIOS BUILT NEAR TWICKENHAM BY THAT NEW COMPANY ...

2006

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

TWO HOURS BEFORE DUSK, A HELICOPTER DESCENDS ON A LANDING PAD ADJOINING THE STUDIOS

SONORACAST STUDIOS

THROUGHOUT THE CAR JOURNEY AND THE FLIGHT, NO WORD HAS PASSED BETWEEN MODESTY AND WILLIE

SONORACAST... I REMEMBER NOW, NEW STUDIOS, FINISHED LAST YEAR ..MUST BE MAFIA CONTROLLED

WE'VE SCHEDULED YOUR EXECUTION FOR TOMORROW— NOTHING PERSONAL, OUR MOTIVATION IS PURE LABOUR-MANAGEMENT PSYCHOLOGY, WE ONLY KILL PEOPLE CORPORATION-WISE

YOU'RE ALL 'EART

2007

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN A FOURTH FLOOR ROOM...

WE NEED A LITTLE TIME TO ROUND UP A HAND-PICKED AUDIENCE FOR YOUR EXECUTION — HOODS WHO'LL BENEFIT FROM A *VISUAL* LESSON...

IT'S A PRETTY NICE DEATH-CELL WE'VE FIXED UP HERE... THIS IS WHERE WE HOLD PEOPLE IN YOUR SITUATION — YOU'LL GET FOOD AND WATER THROUGH THIS HATCH...

DOOR AND WALLS ARE LINED WITH HALF-INCH STEEL... AND IF YOU CAN GET THROUGH THAT EIGHT-INCH VENT YOU'LL FIND A SEVENTY-FOOT DROP WAITING FOR YOU

WHAT'S THE RENT?

2008

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WE LIKE TO STUDY LAST WISHES — YOU CAN HAVE BURIAL OR CREMATION

BURIAL CAN'T INCLUDE A KNOWN GRAVE OR A HEADSTONE — BUT WITH CREMATION WE'RE PREPARED TO SCATTER YOUR ASHES ANY PLACE YOU NAME WITHIN REASON

TELL YOU WHAT — PUT MINE IN AN EGG-TIMER AN' RAFFLE IT AMONG THE BOYS

HUMOUR-WISE, THAT'S PRETTY SICK TALK, GARVIN — WE LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE OFF *DECENT!*

2009

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE LEFT ALONE IN THE DEATH-CELL

ANY LUCK ON THE TRIP BACK, PRINCESS?

NOT MUCH...

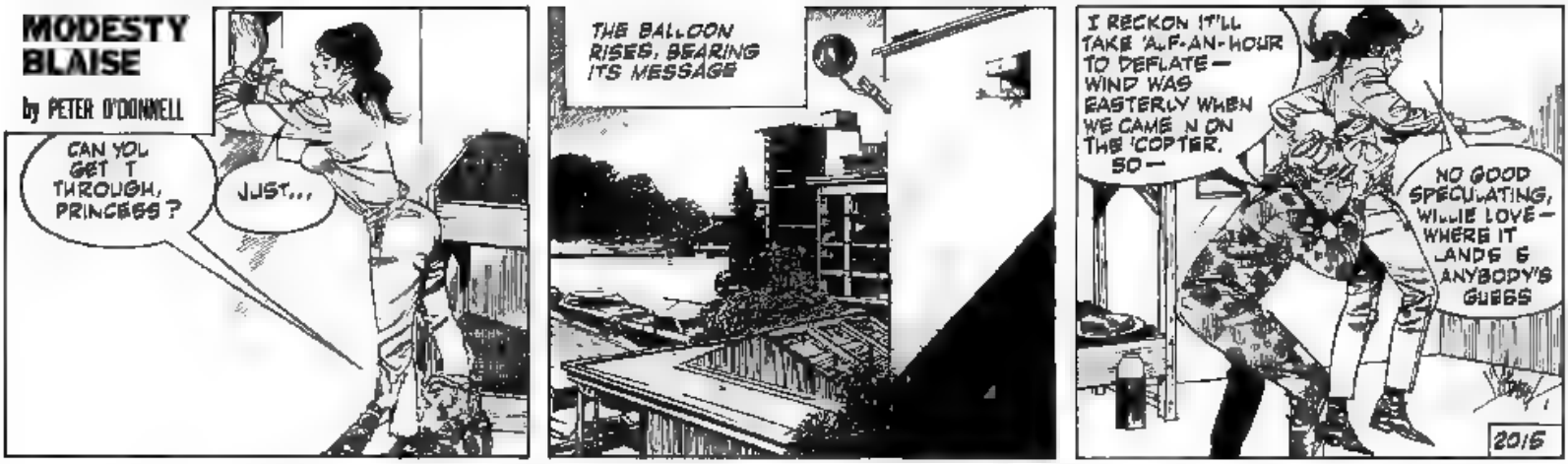
...I FOUND A PENCIL AND A SAFETY PIN TUCKED DOWN THE SEAT OF THE CAR, AND HERE'S A LIGHTER, A BOX OF PILLS, AN OLD ENVELOPE AND A COMB I PICKED FROM SOMEBODY'S POCKET ON THE HELICOPTER— HOW ABOUT YOU?

WELL I CLIPPED THE GRENADE 'EELS ON ME BOOTS BEFORE I GAVE MESELF UP

USEFUL WATER, BUT WE CAN'T USE THEM IN HERE WITHOUT KILLING OURSELVES — WHAT ELSE WILLIE LOVE?

2010

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I PICKED A FLICK-KNIFE FROM NICCO'S POCKET IN THE CAR, AND THIS PEN HE TOOK OFF ME EARLIER, THAT HE THOUGHT WAS A TEAR-GAS PEN
IT'S NOT?
WISH IT WAS...IT'S ONLY THE BALLOON GADGET FOR LIFTING THE AERIAL OF THE MATCHBOX RADIO— IF I'D GOT THE RADIO WE COULD TRY BROADCASTING ON ONE OF THE POLICE BANDS
NEVER MIND...
OH, AND I GOT THIS WALLET OFF MONTALE — HE'LL RECKON 'E LOST IT WHEN YOU THREW 'IM — NOTHING USEFUL IN IT THOUGH, ONLY CASH
2011
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NO...
NOT EXACTLY THE COLLECTION I'D CHOOSE FOR GETTING OUT OF A DEATH-CELL
WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET OUT, WILLIE— WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE OUR B.G EFFORT WHEN WE'RE TAKEN DOWN FOR PUBLIC EXECUTION
AND MEANTIME WE CAN GET A MESSAGE OUT ON THE AERIAL BALLOON AFTER DARK — IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN THROWING A BOTTLE IN THE SEA
2012
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AN HOUR AFTER NIGHTFALL THERE IS A SOUND FROM BEYOND THE HATCH
IT'S OPEN, WILLIE— FOOD AND DRINK
STEEL PLATE BOTH SIDES OF THE WALL, FIXED SO THEY CAN'T BOTH BE SLID BACK AT THE SAME TIME
GOOD... WE'LL LEAVE OUR S DE OPEN WHILE WE GET THE BALLOON-MESSAGE AWAY— LET'S HAVE THESE ROPES OFF FOR A BIT, WILLIE
2013
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I'LL PRICK A LITTLE 'OLE BEFORE INFLATING — WE WANT IT TO LEAK SLOWLY, SO IT COMES DOWN
A HISS OF GAS FROM THE 'PEN', AND THE SMALL BALLOON, DESIGNED TO LIFT A THIN AERIAL WIRE, SWELLS UP
I'VE WRITTEN A MESSAGE TO BROOKIE, KEEPING IT PRETTY CRYPTIC...
... AND A NOTE ON THE OUTSIDE PROMISING FIFTY POUNDS TO ANYONE WHO DELIVERS IT TO SCOTLAND YARD — WE'LL PUT ONE OF MONTALE'S FIVERS WITH IT, AS ENCOURAGEMENT
2014


MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
CAN YOU GET T THROUGH, PRINCESS?
JUST...
THE BALLOON RISES, BEARING ITS MESSAGE
I RECKON IT'LL TAKE 'ALF-AN-HOUR TO DEFLATE — WIND WAS EASTERLY WHEN WE CAME N ON THE 'COPTER, SO —
NO GOOD SPECULATING, WILLIE LOVE — WHERE IT LANDS IS ANYBODY'S GUESS
2015

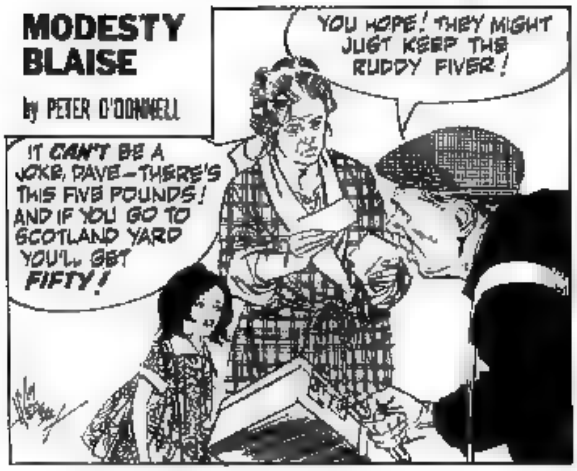
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY AND WILLIE SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT AND WAKE AT DAWN...
WONDER 'OW THEY AIM TO SIGN US OFF, PRINCESS?
THEY'VE A FREE CHOICE — FILM STUDIOS ARE PRETTY WELL SOUNDPROOF...
... EVEN IF SOMEONE OUTS DE HEARD GUNFIRE THEY'D ONLY THINK IT WAS PART OF THE PLOT
WE'LL 'AVE TO THINK QUICK AN' LOOK LIVELY WHEN THE TIME COMES, THEN
THE TWO FAKE BOOT-HEELS LOCK TOGETHER TO MAKE A SMALL BUT POWERFUL GRENADE
2016

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BETTER GET THESE ROPES ON, PRINCESS
NO HURRY — LOOK, THEY'VE PUT UP ANOTHER MEAL, SO THEY WON'T BE COMING FOR US YET
AFTER DARK THIS EVENING SEEMS THE MOST LIKELY TIME NOW
GIVES A BETTER CHANCE FOR OUR BALLOON-MESSAGE TO REACH BROOKE AT THE YARD — IF ANYONE FINDS IT
A HOUSE IN FULHAM
DAD, CAN YOU BLOW THIS UP FOR ME? I FOUND IT IN THE GARDEN
NOT NOW, MAUREEN. I'VE GOT TO GET TO WORK
2017

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOUR DAD HASN'T GOT TIME NOW, LOVE — ANYWAY, IT MUST BE PUNCTURED
OH GO ON DAD, BLOW IT UP FOR ME
DAVE, LOOK! THERE'S A FIVE POUND NOTE — ROLLED UP IN A MESSAGE!
EH?
"IF FINDER TAKES THIS TO INSPECTOR BROOK OF SCOTLAND YARD HE WILL RECEIVE FIFTY POUNDS REWARD." COO!
AH, IT'S SOME DAFT JOKE
2018

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


YOU HOPE! THEY MIGHT JUST KEEP THE RUDDY FIVER!
IT CAN'T BE A JOKE, DAVE—THERE'S THIS FIVE POUNDS! AND IF YOU GO TO SCOTLAND YARD YOU'LL GET FIFTY!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL THEM ABOUT THAT!
I'M NOT LOSING HALF A DAY'S PAY WITH NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT—LOOK, I'LL TAKE THIS ALONG TONIGHT WHEN I KNOCK OFF

AND IN THE DEATH CELL...
2019
ARTIFICIAL LIGHT IN THE STUDIO, WILLIE—THAT'S OUR MAIN HOPE
M'MM... KILL THE LIGHTS AND WE NEUTRALISE THEIR GUNS—I THINK I'LL SET THIS BANGER TO GO OFF ON IMPACT

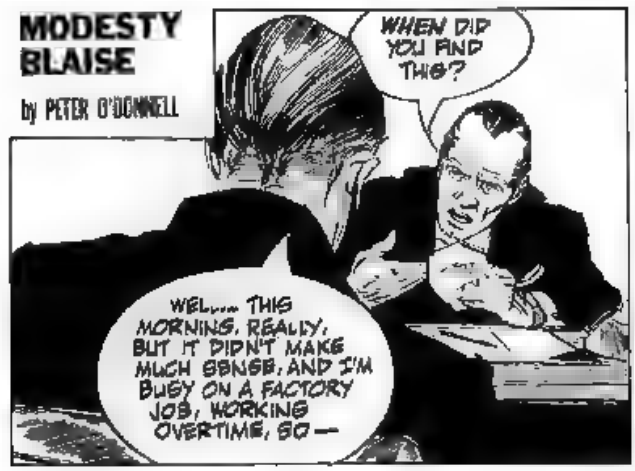
MODESTY BLAISE

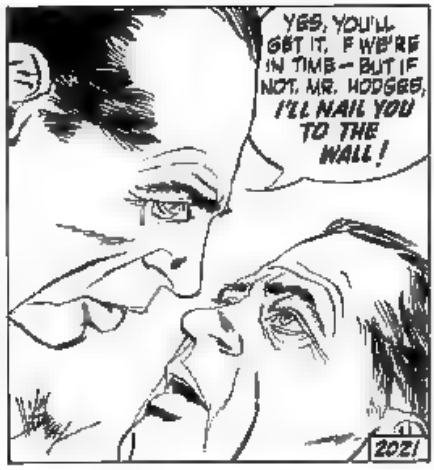
by PETER O'DONNELL

AND AT SCOTLAND YARD, THE MESSAGE IS DELIVERED TO INSPECTOR BROOK
MAFIA!
TIED UP WITH COSA NOSTRA BIG BOYS AT THEIR H.Q. SONOBACAST STUDIOS... M.B.
2020

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


WHEN DID YOU FIND THIS?
WEL.... THIS MORNING, REALLY, BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE, AND I'M BUSY ON A FACTORY JOB, WORKING OVERTIME, SO—



MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE SOUNDPROOF DOOR CLOSES AND IS ELECTRICALLY LOCKED

SO THAT'S THE SET-UP...

...THEY'RE AIMING TO FRY US AMERICAN STYLE

IN THE STUDIO THERE IS A TAUT SILENCE AS A DOZEN OF THE TOP GANG-LEADERS WAIT TO SEE THE EXECUTION

2023

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE MAFIA CHAIRMAN SPEAKS...

MAYBE SOME OF YOU BOYS HAVE BEEN WONDERING IF WE'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU OVER

WELL, HERE'S BLAISE AND GARVIN—BIG REPUTATIONS, BIGGER THAN ANY OF YOU, HUH? THEY DECIDED TO PUT US OUT OF BUSINESS, AND WHERE DID IT GET THEM?

FRIENDS... IT GOT THEM COOKED

2024

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

STRAP THEM IN—BLAISE FIRST

RIGHT... JUST A LITTLE TAP TO GET HER RELAXED

UHH!

THE NEAT BRANDY MODESTY HAS HELD IN HER MOUTH SPRAYS INTO MONTALE'S EYES... AND THE ROPES, CAREFULLY RETIED TO LOOK SECURE, NOW FALL AWAY!

KILL THE LIGHTS, WILLIE

RIGHT—GEE TO NICCO FOR ME

2025

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN ONE SECOND OF EXPLOSIVE ACTION THE WHOLE SCENE HAS CHANGED—AND WILLIE HURLS THE LITTLE GRENADE

A FIFTY FOOT THROW, STRAIGHT INTO THE RECESS WHERE THE MAIN JUNCTION BOX IS MOUNTED

AN INSTANT BEFORE THE BLAST BRINGS DARKNESS AND THE SCREAM OF SHRAPNEL. MODESTY AND WILLIE DROP BEHIND THE COVER OF THE PLATFORM

2026

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE SUDDENLY BLACKED-OUT STUDIO THERE IS SHOUTING, BLUNDERING, AND CONFUSION
I grabbed Nicco's gun for you 'are
Ahh! Thanks, Willie — now hang on to my hand, we're moving
GOT A SENSE OF DIRECTION LIKE A RUDDY 'OMING PIGEON, SHE 'AS...
What's the plot, Princess? — we're locked in with about twenty of 'em
Maybe we can change the odds, Willie — but to start with let's block their first move
2027

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE CHAIRMAN RECOVERS FROM HIS FALL, AND TAKES CHARGE
EVERYONE KEEP STILL!
WITHIN SECONDS AN EERIE SILENCE FALLS OVER THE STUDIO
OKAY... NOW ANYTHING THAT MOVES IS BLAISE OR GARVIN, SO SHOOT IT!
CARLO — YOU'RE PRETTY NEAR THAT CAR BY THE HANGAR DOORS RIGHT? SWITCH ON THE ROOF SPOTLIGHT THEN GET THE TILLEY LAMP THAT'S IN THE BOOT
CHECK
2028

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE CHAIRMAN SHOUTS AGAIN..
IMPATIENT..
MAKE WITH THE LIGHT, CARLO! WHAT THE HELL'S KEEPING YOU?
THE CAR SPOTLIGHT SPRINGS TO LIFE — BUT SWIVELS TO PICK OUT THE CHAIRMAN IN ITS BEAM
GET IT OFF ME, YOU APE!
MODESTY FIRES WITH THE CAPTURED GUN, AND INSTANTLY WILLIE CUTS THE LIGHT
2029

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

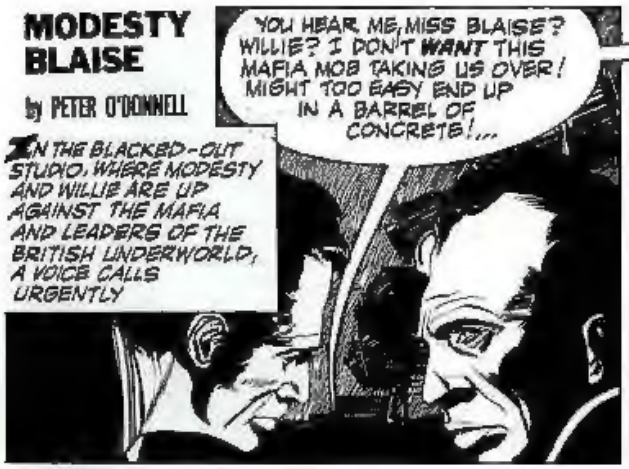
NEW PANIC SWEEPS THE DARKENED STUDIO. A FEW WILD SHOTS ARE FIRED, AND ONE OR TWO CIGARETTE LIGHTERS FLARE
WITH THE CHAIRMAN DEAD, MONTALE TAKES OVER
HOLD YOUR FIRE! DOUSE THOSE LIGHTS! YOU WANNA GIVE HER TARGETS? JUST EVERYONE STAY QUIET WHILE WE FIGURE SOMETHING!
IN THE CONFUSION, WILLIE AND MODESTY HAVE MOVED TO NEW POSITIONS
SOMEONE CLOSE BY... CAN HEAR HIM BREATHING
2030

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

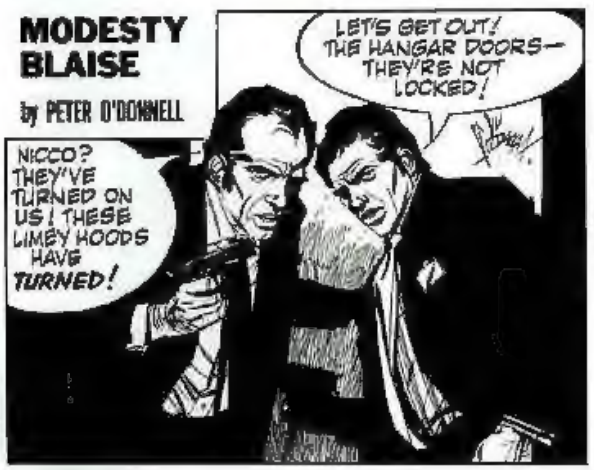
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


IN THE BLACKED-OUT STUDIO, WHERE MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE UP AGAINST THE MAFIA AND LEADERS OF THE BRITISH UNDERWORLD, A VOICE CALLS URGENTLY
YOU HEAR ME, MISS BLAISE? WILLIE? I DON'T WANT THIS MAFIA MOB TAKING US OVER! MIGHT TOO EASY END UP IN A BARREL OF CONCRETE!...

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



...AND AS THE FIERCE LIGHT PUSHES BACK THE DARKNESS, GUNS BEGIN TO SPEAK
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAD BETTER GET THE MAFIA, DUFFY- OR THEY'LL GET YOU!
YEAH... THAT'S HOW YOU'VE FIXED IT!
2033

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

OKAY... BUT THE COLLEGE BOY'S STICKING WITH THE MAFIA, AND AFTER WHAT 'E DID TO YOUR FACE I THINK I'LL SEE 'IM OFF MESSELF
YOU BROOD TOO MUCH, WILLIE LOVE
2034

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE LAST OF THE MAFIA BOSS DOWN . . .
AND SILENCE FALLS OVER THE GREAT STUDIO
2035
YES... BUT DON'T RELAX YET, WILLIE, WE COULD STILL HAVE TROUBLE WITH THESE GANG-LEADERS
THAT'S IT, THEN
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WELL?
ALL THE MAFIA LOT'S DEAD — WE LOST TWO, AND DICER'S GOT A SLUG IN HIS ARM
WHEN THE FUZZ COME IN ON THIS SCENE, WE'LL ALL BE HOT
HE'S RIGHT — SO WHERE DO YOU AND WILLIE STAND, DOLL? WITH THE LAW OR WITH US?
DUFFY... TALK POLITE TO MISS BLAISE, PLEASE — OR I'LL TEAR YOUR 'EAD OFF, MY OLD CHINA
BETTER STILL, JUST LISTEN IF YOU WANT TO STAY IN THE CLEAR
2036
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU'RE FOOLS... YOU'RE SO STUPID YOU MAKE ME TIRED... THE MAFIA CAME TO TAKE YOU OVER, AND YOU NEARLY LET IT HAPPEN
FOR GOD'S SAKE, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE LASTED? WHEN THE MAFIA MOVES IN, THEY PUT THEIR OWN MEN IN CHARGE!
IN SIX MONTHS YOU'D BE REDUNDANT — AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN A GOLDEN HANDSHAKE, NOT WITH THE MAFIA — YOU'D BE SENT ON YOUR WAY IN CEMENT OVERCOATS!
2037
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
DON'T LEAVE ANY BODIES FOR THE POLICE TO FIND...
ALL RIGHT, WE SHOULD'VE GOT TOGETHER AND STOPPED THE MAFIA SOONER — BUT IT'S DONE NOW. SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
THAT BIG HELICOPTER'S OUTSIDE, WITH THE PILOT!
ONLY HALF-AN-HOUR TO THE SEA
GIVE 'EM A BIT OF WEIGHT, AND DROP 'EM!
TWO OF YOU CAN PERSUADE THE PILOT AND MAKE THE FLIGHT WITH HIM. THE REST JUST FADE AWAY AS SOON AS THE CHOPPER'S LOADED — LEAVE THE FUZZ TO US
2038

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

NOT MUCH JOY IN SETTING UP A RAT VERSUS RAT MASSACRE... BUT BETTER THAN LETTING THE MAFIA TAKE HOLD HERE...
SMART IDEA, GETTING RID OF THE STIFFS— LEAVES THE FUZZ NOTHING TO WORK ON!
WE'VE GOT A BETTER REASON, DUFFY... THE MAFIA SENT A TAKE-OVER TEAM, RIGHT? THEY ALL JUST DISAPPEAR, THEY NEVER COME BACK, THEY'RE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF AGAIN
REAL CREEPY, EH?
CAN YOU FIGURE A BETTER WAY TO PUT THEM OFF MAKING ANOTHER TRY?
AHHH! YOU GOT PSYCHOLOGY, THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
2039

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WITHIN MINUTES OF THE HELICOPTER TAKING OFF...
WELL... I SUPPOSE WE'D BETTER CALL BROOKIE AT THE YARD
I THINK HE'S HERE, WILLIE— OUR BALLOON MESSAGE MUST HAVE GOT THROUGH AFTER ALL
INSPECTOR BROOK ARRIVES WITH A SQUAD OF MEN
HALLO! MODESTY! ANYONE HERE?
DON'T SHOUT SO, BROOKIE
COME ON, SHOW US YOUR LEGS YOU SEXY COPPER
2040

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THERE'S BEEN ONE HELL OF A FIGHT HERE! WHERE IS EVERYONE? YOUR NOTE SAID THIS PLACE WAS RUN BY THE MAFIA!
FIGHT? IT'S JUST PART OF SOME FILM SEQUENCE, SURELY— BUT WHAT'S THIS NOTE YOU MENTIONED, BROOKIE?
EH? YOUR NOTE! NOW DON'T START STALLING!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE ARE THE MAFIA BOYS?
WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, INSPECTOR— WE JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING, AND SAW THE LIGHT ON, SO WE LOOKED IN
2041

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

NO YOU DON'T, BROOKIE, YOU'VE GOT WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED
MODESTY — I WANT SOME ANSWERS!
IF A MAFIA TEAM WAS HERE, TAKING OVER THE UNDERWORLD, THEN THEY'VE GONE NOW... JUST VANISHED COMPLETELY...
THEY'LL NEVER SHOW UP AGAIN, AND NOBODY'S GOING TO ENQUIRE AFTER THEM
THAT'S AS TIDY AS YOU CAN GET, SO DON'T SPOIL IT
JUST... VANISHED, EH? MY WORD, YOU HAVE BEEN THOROUGH — CAN I OFFER YOU A LIFT HOME?
2042

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU'VE BEEN WORKED OVER...IF I'D KNOWN THIS THING WAS A COSA NOSTRA SET-UP I'D HAVE THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT SETTING YOU ON TO THEM
LIAR!
THOUGHT TWICE, AND DONE IT JUST THE SAME
YOU KNOW, IF WE WERE CROSSWORD PUZZLE FANS, WE MIGHT 'AVE PIN-POINTED THESE STUDIOS SOONER
POLICE
WHAT?
HE'S RIGHT, BROOKIE... THEY WEREN'T SHORT OF NERVE— THAT'S AN ANAGRAM OF COSA NOSTRA
2043